



MODELING WITH PDA/PATRAN and the EVANS & SUTHERLAND PS300

PDA/PATRAN with the Evans & Sutherland PS300 introduce a new concept to the problem of geometric and analytical modeling. Most CAD systems are designed to produce pictures of an object. However, where the geometry upon which these pictures are based is suitable for drafting or tool path generation, it proves to be inadequate in many areas of complex, comprehensive analysis such as finite element modeling.

PDA/PATRAN represent a radical departure from the existing approaches to geometry construction and finite element modeling. Using the PS300 graphics processor, the engineer is afforded a highly sophisticated graphics terminal which complements the PDA/PATRAN software. While geometric descriptions in the form of arbitrary curves, surfaces and volumes are easily and quickly described as continuous functions, the local processing capabilities of the PS300 allow for the graphics manipulation of data with host interaction significantly reduced. With PS300, a user can dynamically change viewing orientations and even add perspective, thus enabling him to concentrate wholly on the modeling aspects, rather than how to obtain a particular visualization.

Every feature of PDA/PATRAN has been designed to enhance the engineer's talents and abilities while optimizing the program's effectiveness as an engineering tool. The PS300 serves to carry this concept not one but several steps beyond the current state-of-the-art in engineering graphics. Because of the natural integration of software and hardware, complex shapes can be synthesized to produce a mathematical model in a minimum of steps, thus freeing the engineer to approach problem solving in a natural, practical and logical environment.

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